CHAPTER X

A GENERALISSIMO WITHOUT AUTHORITY

WHEN President Li Yuan-hung was coerced by General Chang Hsun into dissolving Parliament, on June 10, 1917, many of the Southern members left for Shanghai, where, on July 18, they issued a Manifesto denouncing Tuan Chi-jui's return to power. Shortly afterwards they departed *en bloc* for Canton. Dr. Sun, accompanied by a portion of the Chinese Navy which had revolted against Peking followed, stopping en route at Swatow to speechify, and reaching Canton on July 25. Though a quorum could not be obtained the Parliamentary Rump decided to organize a "constitutional" government in the south. Before it had been organized Peking had declared war on the Central Powers (August 14). The Southern Parliament, on August 25, in the presence of Dr. Sun and presumably with his approval (in spite of his mischievous cable to Mr. Lloyd George earlier in the year) issued a Declaration of War against Germany on August 25* It was suggested at the time that this was merely "eyewash/' and for some time afterwards Canton was a hotbed of German intrigue.

It was decided, in order not to

emphasize national disunity, not to elect a President of the Southern Government, but in September Dr. Sun was elected Generalissimo, and thus had the satisfaction of